Posting of Joint Secretaries etc. abroad

2187. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Officers of the rank of Joint Secretaries and above have been deputed abroad during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the names of the officers, their period of visit, purpose of the visit and the amount spent by the respective Ministries, if sent on Government expenditure; and contributions made in public interest ?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP'SINGH): (a) and (b) The information is not centrally available.

Flexible Complementing Scheme for promotion of scientists

2188. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be ploised to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced Flexible Complementing Scheme for career promotion of Scientists in various scientific Ministries/Departments;

• (b) if so, whether pay-pattern and designations ia the Flexible Complementing Scheme are uniform in all the Ministries/Departments; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken to make them uniform to encourage inter-departmental movement of Scientists ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The pay patterns and designations of Scientific and Technical personnel in the various Ministries/Departments are not uniform. Moreover, the duties and functions of technical personnel also vary. An Inter-departmental Committee under the chairmanship of the then Scientific Adviser to the Prime Minister and Member (Science), Planning Commission, has been worked on a package aimed at attaining maximum uniformity of pay scales and promotion opportunities Under the Flexible Complementing Scheme (FCS) in the various scientific departments over a period of time. It may be noted that under the FCS, a scientist gets *in-situ* promotion personal to him or her and does not imply that there will be an inter-departmental movement. Under the rules of deputation, a scientist can, however, go to another scientific department keeping a lien in the parent department. A greater degree of uniformity in pay-scales/ promotions is desirable to make easier inter-departmental movement of Scientists.

Improvement in High School education in rural areas

2189. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme has been undertaken for improvement of physical infrastructure in High School education in rural areas; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER *OF* STATE IN THE MINISTRY OP HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ^SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA